



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R4/ES

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### Memorandum

To: All Field Supervisors, Southeast Region

From: ~~Acting~~ Assistant Regional Director, Southeast Region

Subject: Interagency Agreement on Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Construction - FERC  
Pre-Filing Environmental Review

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is responsible for authorizing the siting, construction and operation of interstate natural gas pipelines, natural gas storage fields, and the liquified natural gas (LNG) facilities pursuant to sections 3 and 7 of the Natural Gas Act of 1938, as amended. In order to further expedite the timely authorization of new interstate natural gas pipeline projects, Federal agencies, including the Fish and Wildlife Service, have entered into an "Interagency Agreement on Early Coordination of Required Environmental and Historic Preservation Reviews Conducted in Conjunction with the Issuance of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines Certificated by the FERC" (Interagency Agreement) (attachment 1). The Director encourages our participation in early project planning activities in natural gas pipeline project review to the greatest extent possible (Director's memo attached).

The Interagency Agreement encourages our participation and early involvement and also directs us to participate in FERC's new pre-filing environmental review process to resolve issues at early stages of pipeline project development (attachment 2). Applicants for pipeline construction projects are required to consult with the Service on projects potentially affecting fish, wildlife, migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, certain marine mammals, interjurisdictional fish, and National Wildlife Refuge lands. The Interagency Agreement provides us opportunity to get involved in early pre-project planning activities, e.g., pipeline routing, endangered species identification, and resource impact studies, to assist the project applicant in designing a better project, i.e., a project that avoids or minimize project impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

A copy of the Interagency Agreement is also available electronically on our regional website:

<http://southeast.fws.gov/es/pdf/interagencyagreement.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Cielinski, Regional Hydropower Coordinator, at 404/679-7135.

Attachments